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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,152	10/15/2003	Dale M. Stronski	ZM729/04001	6200

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EXAMINER

BOCHNA, DAVID

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/686,152

Applicant(s)

STRONSKI, DALE M.

Examiner

David E. Bochna

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-8 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the subject matter of claims 6 and 8 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 8, 3rd line from the bottom, contains grammatical errors. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by French Patent 2,563,316.

In regard to claims 1 and 10, French Patent '316 discloses an apparatus for connecting first and second conduits to carry a fluid under pressure comprising:

a first face 5a attached around an open end of the first conduit 1;

a pocket face 7b attached around an open end of the second conduit 9 and defining a

Art Unit: 3679

pocket (space in which 40, 39 and 5b are located);

wherein the first face 5a is fastened to the pocket face (via 13) such that the first face is substantially perpendicular to walls of the pocket and adjacent to an open end of the pocket;

a gasket member 5b slidably engaged in the pocket and defining a passageway through a central portion thereof, the gasket member having a gasket face (portion of 5b touching 5a) adjacent and substantially parallel to the first face and an opposite pressure face (back side of 5b starting where 19 is contacting 5b and slanted portion of 5b leading up to where 39 and 40 are located) inside the pocket;

at least one bias element 19 exerting a bias force on the gasket member 5b toward the first face;

a pocket seal 40 sealing an outer periphery of the gasket member to the walls of the pocket 7b;

a main gasket 15 between the gasket face of the gasket member and the first face;

wherein the pressure face of the gasket member is exposed to fluid carried by the conduits and has an area that is greater than an area of the gasket face between the main gasket 15 and the passageway through the gasket member.

In regard to claim 2, the first face is defined by a first flange 5a attached to the end of the first conduit 1, and the pocket face is defined by a pocket flange 7b attached to the end of the second conduit 9.

In regard to claim 3, the main gasket 15 comprises a main o-ring positioned in a groove on the gasket face of the gasket member 5b.

Art Unit: 3679

In regard to claim 5, wherein the at least one bias element 19 comprises at least one spring bearing against the pressure face of the gasket member at one end and against a bottom of the pocket 7b at the other end.

In regard to claim 6, the at least one bias element 19 comprises at least one resilient pad bearing against the pressure face of the gasket member at one end and against a bottom of the pocket 7b at the other end.

In regard to claim 7, the gasket member 5b and pocket 7b are cylindrical.

In regard to claim 8, the pocket face comprises:

a pocket member 7b defining the pocket face (side which 16 contacts) on one side thereof and an opposite gasket face (side where 7 is pointing) adjacent to a face of a secondary flange member 14 attached to the end of the second conduit 9, and wherein the pocket member 7b defines a passageway through a central portion thereof, and includes a pocket floor (slanted portion of 7b) between the walls of the pocket (wall which 40 touches on 7b) and the passageway through the pocket member; and

a secondary gasket 23 between the gasket face of the pocket member 7b and the face of the secondary flange member 14;

wherein the pocket floor (slanted portion of 7b) is to the has an area that is greater than an area of the first face of the pocket member between the secondary gasket 23 and the passageway through the pocket member.

Art Unit: 3679

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Albrecht, Delano, Jr. et al., Goff et al., and Neebe all disclose similar couplings common in the art.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Bochna whose telephone number is (703) 306-9040. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.



David Bochna
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679
May 12, 2004